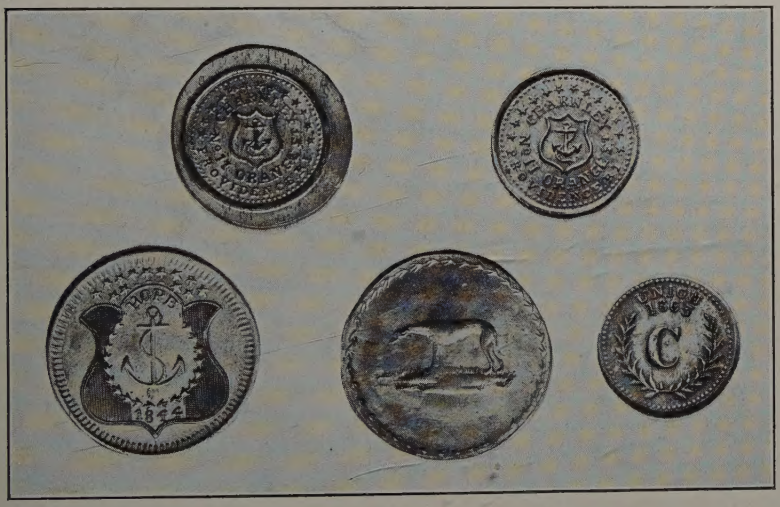
Rhode Island Historical Society Collections

Vol. XXVI. JANUARY, 1933 No. 1



METAL TOKENS USED AS CURRENCY

Metal tokens issued in Providence in 1844 and 1863 which were used as money on account of the lack of metal fractional currency.

From the Society's Museum

Issued Quarterly

68 Waterman Street, Providence, Rhode Island

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Tradesmen's Tokens	Cover
Colonial Newport as a Summer Resort, by Carl Bridenbaugh	1
New Publications of Rhode Island Interest . .	24
Notes	24
Peace Dale Seals, Communicated by Caroline Hazard . .	25
Westconnaug Purchase, Communicated by T. G. Foster . . .	26

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

VOL. XXVI. JANUARY, 1933 No. 1

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER, *President* GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, *Treasurer*
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Colonial Newport as a Summer Resort

By CARL BRIDENBAUGH

At the southern tip of the island of Rhode Island lies Newport, of which it has been said, "The climate is the most salubrious of any part of his Majesty's possessions in America. . . . It is made the resort every summer of numerous wealthy inhabitants of the Southern Colonies, and the West Indies, seeking health and pleasure. For the same reasons, and to enjoy the refined and polished Society of Newport, many families of fortune from the West Indies and Europe have taken up their permanent residence there; and among them many men of science and education have . . . made it their abode. . . . There are upwards of nine thousand inhabitants, celebrated for their hospitality to strangers, and extremely genteel and courtly in their manners."[1]

This is not modern real estate promotion "literature," but an excerpt from a letter written in the year 1765 by Robert Melville, governor of His Majesty's Colony of Grenada. The fame which Newport enjoys today as a summer resort of wealth and fashion dates from colonial days, and long before the American Revolution it had achieved its established position as "Our Social Capital." The climate of the Narragansett country was likened by Bishop Berkeley to that of Italy,[2] and Richard Greenough, a native son, heartily echoed his sentiment when he dubbed it the "American Venice."[3] The Reverend Mr. Callender quoted with pride in his Century Sermon of 1738 the words of praise uttered by "old Neale": "this is deservedly esteemed the Paradise of New-England for the fruitfulness of the Soil and the temperateness of the Climate."[4] In 1798, writing of the scene of his boyhood, Arthur Brown recalled that "the Climate of Rhode Island, often called the garden and the Montpelier of America, induced such numbers of wealthy persons from the southward to reside there in the summer, that it was ludicrously called the Carolina hospital."[5]

The earliest visitors to Newport were planters from the West Indies who came there to enjoy its beneficial climate. Several invalid Antiguans arrived at Newport as early as 1729, to rebuild their health which had been impaired by the excessive heat of that tropical island.[6] Many of these people became enamored of the beautiful Narragansett country and determined to settle there. When Bishop Berkeley landed, in 1729, he was greeted by the Redwoods of Antigua, the DeCourcys of Ireland, the Bretts of Germany, and the Scotts of Scotland. Newport was already famous as a watering place.[7]

Before long the South Carolinians, many of whom originally came from Barbadoes and other islands of the Caribbees, began to sense the desirability of a vacation spent away from the fever-infested swamps of the Carolina tidewater.[8] Among the first of the summer visitors from

Charles Town, was Col. Thomas Pollock, who came to "enjoy the advantages of the Climate," and "passed much of his time in Newport." Pollock practically became a resident of Newport, and contributed, through one of his children, to the greatest romance in the history of the town.[9]

The early Newport records have suffered from the ravages of time and war, and our information is slim indeed. But we may infer from what little we possess that the stream of visitors grew steadily following 1730. In particular, the number of South Carolinians increased, and in this period it began to be fashionable as well as beneficial for southern planters to summer on Rhode Island. About this time also Philadelphia's growing merchant aristocracy discovered the charm of Newport.

No record of the concourse of visitors was kept until after the founding of the *Newport Mercury* in 1758. The enterprising Samuel Hall and his successor, Solomon Southwick, took a forward step for American journalism when, in 1767, in addition to the usual shipping news, they began to print lists of summer arrivals. It was doubtless a source of considerable satisfaction for the shopkeepers of Newport to read in the *Mercury* of June 1/8, 1767, that "Last Thursday, the Sloop Charlestown, Capt. Joseph Durfee, arrived here from Charlestown, South-Carolina, in 9 days, with whom came Passengers, the Reverend *Winwood Serjant,* intended for the Episcopal Church in Cambridge, near Boston, together with his Lady, and a number of other Gentlemen and Ladies. The whole Number of Passengers amounted to Eighteen." From 1767 down to the outbreak of hostilities in 1775 these notices became a regular feature of the *Newport Mercury*. It was Southwick's custom in this period to print the names of prominent visitors in capitals, whereas the familiar coming and going of the mercantile group was restricted to ordinary font. The activities of the world of fashion, thus early in our colonial society, became better headline material than the simpler doings of

mere men of affairs. Here, in embryo, is our modern society column, a feature unique in the colonial press.[10]

The lists of arrivals grew steadily in size, and in the eight years before the Revolution we know that over four hundred people visited Newport in the summer season.[11] It is possible that the unchronicled arrivals totalled many more. By far the largest number came from South Carolina, although Philadelphia and Jamaica contributed their share. A striking feature of these lists is the fact that although Newport had a regular packet service to New York, as well as to the West Indies and the South, and probably transacted more business with that town than any other, not one New York name is to be found. Perhaps the Knickerbockers had already found their way to Long Island and the Catskills.[12]

Good boat service was absolutely necessary to Newport's development as a resort. In 1767 there was no continuous road from the South to New England, and even had there been one, the distance and rigors of the trip would have discouraged all but the most hardy. The journey could more conveniently be made by sea. In this period Newport was enjoying the "golden era" of her commerce with the West Indies. Packet ships from Narragansett Bay were to be found in all of the southern ports and in the havens of the Caribbean.[13] Captains sought passengers as well as cargoes, and probably many a planter was lured north by highly colored "sales talks" expatiating on the beauties of Rhode Island. The conclusion is inescapable that Newport could not have become a resort had it not been first a flourishing seaport.

Comfort and convenience, however, were merely relative, whatever the means of travel in colonial days and the journey by sea to Rhode Island was hazardous, to say the least. The Atlantic coastline was almost uncharted and lighthouses were few. We marvel today that families would ever have made the attempt when we read in the *Mercury* of June 18, 1770, of a vessel wrecked near New

London:[14] "This Vessel was chartered by Col. *Smith*, of Charlestown, S. Carolina, in which himself, his Lady, 4 Children and 4 Servants, and several other Personages, were coming to this Place to Spend the Summer. But happily there was no Person lost except the Mate, who was drowned.—Col. *Smith* and his Family arrived safe here yesterday." Perhaps some, of whom we have no record, were not so fortunate, but it seems safe to assume that those who were not so opulent as Col. Smith and chose the regular packet boats were probably favored with better passages under the care of expert pilots. At any rate, the packet service became the favorite means of transportation. It was, however, a long and tedious voyage to Newport, requiring from Jamaica twenty-five to thirty-three days,[15] from Charles Town, seven to sixteen (ten being the average),[16] and from Philadelphia, four to six days.[17] When the packet sloop or brig slid past Beaver Tail Light and tied up at Long Wharf, Newport, we may be assured that the weary travelers sighed with relief and hurried ashore to meet their waiting friends. Newport must have had its attractions to cause people to risk both comfort and safety to enjoy them.

Who were the people who summered in Newport? From what class of society in their native towns did they come? Fortunately, the *Newport Mercury* affords the answers. That they could bear the costs of traveling indicates that most of them were wealthy, and an investigation of their backgrounds proves that many of the people who came from the southern colonies and the West Indies were of the British official class. "On Monday last came to Town, from Boston, His Excellency Lord *Charles Greville Montague*, governor of South Carolina and his Lady, . . . to pass a few weeks."[18] We have already noted the arrival of Robert Melville, governor of Grenada.[19] In September, 1772, " . . . Lieut. Gov. Young of Tobago being in Town," invited the Reverend Ezra Stiles to call on him. "I waited upon him and his Lady," wrote the Congregational Min-

ister, "and spent three hours with him."[20] In the same year Lord William Campbell, last royal governor of South Carolina, spent some time in Newport with "his Lady," the former Sarah Izard of Charles Town.[21] Newport was particularly attractive to the "Hon. *Augustus Johnston*, Esq; Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty for South-Carolina;" he and his "Consort" passed the summers of 1769 and 1770 there.[22] Those minor officials in the colonial and naval service who could afford the luxury were also to be found summering at Newport.[23]

The merchant princes of Charles Town and the wealthy planters of South Carolina constitute the largest group to visit Newport. Fear of the yellow and "country" fevers had for years driven the Carolina planters into Charles Town during the summer months, and after 1765 the fame of Rhode Island lured them northward. A glance at the "society page" of the *Mercury*, June 26, 1769, informs us that: "Last Friday Capt. Joseph Durfee, in the Sloop Charles-Town, arriv'd here in 7 Days from Charles-Town, with whom came Passengers the Hon. *Augustus Johnston*, Esq; Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty for South-Carolina, &c. *Henry Middleton*, Esq; and Family." The brig Betsy, in July, landed another group: "Mr. *John Izard*, Esq; and Family, *Alexander Wright*, Esq; and Family, and *Archibald McNeil*, Esq; and Family," from Charles Town after a passage of twelve days.[24] Two years later a flutter was caused in the social set by the arrival of "Lieut. Gov. *Bull*, Mr. *William Bull*, Mr. *Outerbridge*, Miss *Katy Beale*, Dr. *John Farquharson*, Mr. *Gabriel Manigault*, Miss *Hazell*, Mr. *Philip Mines*, Mr. *John Morgery*, Mr. *Isaac Milehill*, and others."[25]

By 1768 the blueboods of Philadelphia began that annual pilgrimage to the Narragansett Bay country which continues to this day. On August 15, the *Mercury* announced the arrival of "Mr. *John Wharton*, and Sister, Mr. *Samuel Nichols*, Mr. *Williams*, and Sister, Mr. *Benj. Rawles*, of Philadelphia." In the seven year period cov-

ered by this paper, we note among other members of Philadelphia society the names of Mr. Clement Biddle, Mr. Josiah Hewes, Mr. Gilbert Rodman, Mr. Christopher Marshall, the Lillibridge family, Thomas Mifflin and family, the Philadelphia Redwoods, and Mr. Lewis Bonnettee.[26] From Jamaica, Georgia, and North Carolina came summer visitors whose names are less familiar today, but who certainly were socially important in the eighteenth century.

The season was long, for the Southerners especially, commencing as early as the first week in May, and lasting till October, occasionally into November. This we also learn from the *Mercury*, which began to take notice of departures in its issue of November 6, 1769: "This Day sail'd the Sloop Charles-Town, Capt. *Joseph Durfee*, for Charles-Town, South-Carolina, with whom went Passengers, Mrs. *Wells* and Daughter, *Augustus Johnston*, Esq; Mr. *Sanderson*, Mr. *Edwards*, and Mr. *Nathaniel Russel*." The Philadelphians, being mostly merchants, had of necessity to yield to the calls of business, and generally left early in September. On September 6, 1773,[27] "sailed for Philadelphia, the Sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. *Joseph Anthony*, with whom went Passengers, *Thomas Mifflin*, Esq; and Lady; Mr. *Thomas Hopkins*, and Lady, *Mr. Charles Startin*, and Lady, Mrs. *Sheilds*, Miss *Nabby Collins*, Mr. *John Gardner*, Capt. *George Crump*, Mr. *William McDonald*, Mr. *John Grant*, Mr. *Samuel G. Fowler*, Mr. *John P. Hicks*, and several others."

A summer spent in Newport was an expensive affair that only the well-to-do could afford. The cost of transportation, alone, for a family and retinue was great; "genteel" folk would feel it necessary to hire the whole cabin on the packet sloop. When they arrived at Newport, the wealthier families took houses for the period of their stay. In the spring and early summer the *Mercury* was filled with advertisements like the following:[28]

> To Be Let, A Genteel House and Furniture, with a Garden, &c, pleasantly located. . . .
>
> By Caleb Godfrey.

or,

> TO LET [two Houses] very convenient and pleasantly situated, with two good Stables, Gardens, and Wells of Water, &c . . . . Enquire of the Printer hereof.

Gabriel Manigault, of Charles Town, who was reputed the richest gentleman in the Colonies,[29] would probably have taken such a residence when he arrived for the season.

Some of the regular summer visitors owned estates near Newport, and may be regarded as the forerunners of the Van Rensselaers and Belmonts. Mr. William Rodman, of Philadelphia, owned "The Noted Farm on New-Shoreham," which was advertised for sale by William Ellery in 1772.[30] Occasionally one of the high provincial officials was invited to stay with a prominent family of Newport. In 1728 Lord Charles Greville Montague "went to the Country-Seat of Mr. William Redwood, . . . where, we hear, His Lordship proposes to pass a few weeks."[31] Here, too, he probably found the Philadelphia Redwoods, who frequently spent the summer with their Newport cousins.

The less opulent had to be satisfied with simpler accommodations in the town itself, such as "Three Genteel Rooms, pleasantly situated in Marlborough-Street, with the Priviledge of a Garret, Yard, and Cellar," or "a Genteel Parlour, furnished with Two Bed-Rooms, with a Priviledge in the Kitchen, and Accomodations for a Servant, in the good, clear Air, and retired." There were no real estate agents in those days, and one procured lodgings by consulting the printer of the *Newport Mercury*.[32] Single men, of whom there were many, generally lodged at taverns like Mary Cowley's, in Church Street, which advertised "several decent rooms and beds unoccupied," for "gentlemen."[33]

The arrival of the summer visitors was welcomed by the shopkeepers and taverners of the town as a good chance to "turn an honest penny." John and William Tweedy, druggists, and their competitors, Reak and Okey, advertised their cure-alls and nostrums with an almost modern assurance: "The Golden Medical Cephalic Snuff," to cure all disorders of the head; "British tooth-powder," at 2/6 per box; and "The True Italian Ointment," at 3/6. The ladies greatly feared injury to their complexions from exposure to the sun, and for this Reak and Okey prescribed "Queen's pearl wash ball," guaranteed to remove "freckles and sunburn. It renders the skin delicately white, smooth, and soft. . . ."[34] What modern cosmetic could promise more? In 1773, "Poree, Surgeon-Dentist" from New York, made a short trip to Newport in July, "at the intercession of some worthy gentlemen," no doubt hoping to find a market for his "artificial teeth" among the summer people,[35] for he put up at Mrs. Cowley's "genteel" boarding house. John Escoffier, "just arrived from Paris," informs the public that he has opened a "Hair-Dressing Business" and "makes Hair Cushions for Ladies."[36] John Goddard, cabinet-maker, who copies Chippendale's patterns from a manual recently imported, hastens to prepare new styles of furniture for his West Indian customers.[37] Paris fashions being all the rage, the modish female will of course wish to visit the shop of "MARY MARTIN, Millener and Mantua-Maker, Lately arrived from Paris. N. B. She dresses ladies heads, for half a dollar, at the Shop; and if waited on, at a dollar. . . ."[38] The Southerners and West Indians had a reputation as free spenders, and these Yankee tradesmen intended to operate on this assumption.[39]

An analysis of the lists published in the *Mercury* reveals certain social characteristics common to nearly all of the summer colony. West Indians and Southerners were predominantly members of the Anglican communion. Of the Philadelphians the majority also worshipped at the Estab-

lished Church, although there was a strong minority belonging to the Society of Friends. These travelers, therefore, would find in Newport, where Quakers and Episcopalians formed the most influential sects, a society especially congenial in the sphere of religion.[40] Socially the members of the summer group came almost wholly from the rising merchant aristocracy of the colonial towns. Most of the Charlestonians were members of St. Philip's and St. Michael's parishes—a sufficient key to distinction. In addition, many belonged to the Charles Town Library and the very fashionable St. Cecilia Society whose brilliant reception to Lord Greville Montague in 1773 so dazzled the sober Josiah Quincy of Boston.[41] The South Carolinians who came to Newport brought with them an established social position, and lent to the island resort a decided English tone borrowed from their native town.

Of the group from Philadelphia, nearly all enjoyed membership in the exclusive "Dancing Assembly," in itself the badge of gentility.[42] Seven of the gentlemen mentioned in Newport's "social register" were vassals of the Governor of the Colony in Schuylkill, the most select men's club of colonial days, and one of them, Thomas Mifflin, subscribed to the purses of the Jockey Club and rode to hounds over the course of the Gloucester Hunt.[43] We have no means of knowing much about the Jamaicans and Antiguans, but the fact that they traveled in the favored company of royal governors and were accustomed to pass much of their time in London lends strength to their claim for social distinction. Newport, even in the "gay nineties," would have found it hard to eclipse the galaxy of social lights it presented in 1772-1773. With its intellectual attainment, culture, refinement, and wealth, Newport was becoming the Bath of America.

We have already noticed that the first attraction of Newport was its salubrious climate, which was a great inducement to visitors from the South. This never lost its appeal, but Newport, like Bath, included many other

charms in its repertoire. Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were sober and business-like seaports, places in which the "puritan" way of living was dominant. Not so with Newport. Because of its heterogeneous religious makeup, this town was from its beginning free from clerical control. "No opinion was prohibited consistent with morality," wrote Arthur Brown, because ". . . the multiplicity of secretaries [*sic*] produced more genuine religion, morality and piety . . . than in any country I have ever seen."[44] The puritan sabbath, as practiced in Boston, calling for half of Saturday to be used in preparation was ridiculed in the Newport press:

> . . . 'tis plainly seen, *how chang'd indeed,*
> That sacred law, which God himself decreed!
> *In this one Act*, they think to merit Heav'n,
> By taking half a day from six, and adding it to seven.

The people of Newport evidently agreed with Berkeley's dictum: "Give the devil his due, John Calvin was a great man," but they wanted none of his religious discipline.[45] As compared with Boston, Newport was "wide open" on Saturday nights. To the gay, pleasure-loving planter it was indeed an attractive spot, while the Philadelphia Anglican felt a sense of relief from Quaker sobriety and moral compulsion.

Judged by eighteenth century standards the island of Rhode Island offered something to everyone—culture, solitude, gaiety, entertainment, and health.

Though the sea air and even climate of Rhode Island were claimed to be most beneficial, there were some who failed to find the cure for which they sought. The *Newport Mercury* records thus a simple tragedy that must have been frequently re-enacted:[46] "July 18, . . . died Miss *Elizabeth Hollybrush*, of Charlestown, South-Carolina, from whence she lately arrived here, for the Recovery of her Health, aged 21 Years. . ." On July 11, 1774 "*James Crooke*, Esq; and family" arrived from Jamaica, "to recover his

health," but on August 10 the *Mercury* gives notice of his death and burial in Trinity Church yard.[47] More pleasant is the item that in the summer of 1770, "Hon. *James Otis*, on a Tour for his Health, spent one or two Days in this Town."[48] Thus, we see that many invalids sought recovery along the shores of the Narragansett, but the impression gained from reading the newspaper is that the majority of the visitors were more interested in prevention than in cure.

These "idle rich" formed our first leisure class, and to the lower classes of Newport and the surrounding country may well have seemed as heretics rebelling against the traditional doctrine of "six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work." Lilies of the field had hardly as yet an accepted position in the pioneer society. That a class feeling was developing is mentioned in a condescending manner by Arthur Brown:[49] ". . . the richer merchants . . . together with the clergy, lawyers, physicians and officers of the English navy who had occasionally settled there, were considered as gentry; even being a member of the Church of England gave a kind of distinctive fashion. A superior order thus formed by better and more information existed even to a degree sufficient to excite jealousy in the agricultural system, and to be a gentleman was sufficient . . . to expose the bearer of that name to mockery and rudeness, a specie of inconvenience which a liberal mind pardoned as compensated by the comfort and independence which produced it." An undercurrent of resentment thus flowed in the relationship between summer guest and native laborer, notwithstanding the business advantage the situation brought to the latter.

During the period under review Newport was a bustling seaport of seven to nine thousand inhabitants.[50] For a community of its size it presented unusual cultural opportunities both for its own citizens and for visitors. Its chief pride was the great collection of books housed in the beautiful Redwood Library. Although this was a subscription

library, non-members could borrow books by depositing a sum against the value of the book and paying a small fee for its hire. Books withdrawn could be kept for a month.[51] For those who wished to improve their leisure by reading this library was unsurpassed in the Colonies. The *Diary* and *Itineraries* of Ezra Stiles, librarian of the Redwood, give ample evidence of the wide use of the collection by visitors as well as by townsfolk.[52] Solomon Southwick, printer of the *Mercury*, conducted a book store in connection with his business. The striking feature of the book advertisements in his paper is the amount of secular literature, especially novels, announced for sale, as compared with what was demanded by the more austere tastes of Boston, New York and Philadelphia.[53] Probably one of his best customers was the Vice-Admiralty Judge of Charles Town, who advertised on September 18, 1769: "Those Persons who may be possessed of any Books belonging to Augustus Johnston, are earnestly requested to return them as soon as may be." Use of the Redwood Library was evidently supplemented by private circulation.

Life on isolated plantations made it difficult for southern and insular planters to further their own and their children's educations, but a summer in Newport offered advantages in this line. Many gentlemen, no doubt, profited by the opportunity to improve their fencing under Monsieur Bontamps, Mr. William Pope, or Monsieur Delile of the University of Bordeaux.[54] Others could join with their ladies in the study of French under one of the many teachers who advertised. Lewis Delile, recommended by Rev. Mr. Stiles, who was also his pupil, announced that by his method "a Scholar can learn to speak very good French . . . in two Months."[55] Numerous private schools for boys and girls are noticed in the *Mercury* and possibly owed their existence to the presence of the summer colony.[56] For those of a more gregarious turn excellent conversation was to be had; few cultured people visited Newport without discussing the problems of the universe with the learned

Ezra Stiles. Trade and politics were the principal topics of debate at the Royal Exchange Coffee House, where among convivial surroundings could be had "the best of London Porter, Madeira, Teneriffe, White Li[s]bon, and Claret Wines, and every other liquor and Convenience suitable to accomodate Gentlemen with." All strangers and travelers could "depend upon the best Entertainment and Attendance."[57] Or, if you had a friend who belonged to the "Fryday Night Club" you might be introduced as a guest to one of Col. Godfrey Malbone's famous dinners.[58] The freemason from Charles Town, the West Indies or Philadelphia was sure to be welcome at the meetings of the Newport lodge.[59].

As if to usher in the season of 1772 came the announcement that on May 5, "A Grand Concert of Vocal and Instrumental *Musick*, By a Number of the First Performers from Boston, &c,"[60] would be given at the Court House, commencing at 7 P. M. sharp. The number and frequency of the advertisements for these concerts appearing in the *Mercury* suggests that they were well patronized. In 1767, Henry Hymes announced an "Entertainment of *Musick*, every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and the Performances will be given gratis. . . . Any Gentlemen or Ladies wishing private Concerts may have it upon 4 hours notice," for which a charge will be made.[61] Music had been popular in Newport ever since 1733, when Bishop Berkeley presented an organ to Trinity Church.[62] The vestry was always careful to secure a competent organist, and in 1773, "William Selby, Organist of Trinity Church, Newport, Just arrived from London," informed the public that he would "instruct young Gentlemen and Ladies to play upon the violin, flute, harpsichord, guitar and other instruments, now in use. . . ."[63] That the visitors from Charles Town appreciated the Newport talent is seen from an advertisement in the *Newport Mercury*, April, 1771, for musicians to play at a concert with the St. Cecilia Society. A first and second fiddle, two hautboys, and a

bassoon were wanted, and it was hinted that there was a possibility of a two to three years' engagement.[64]. If the numerous announcements of Elias Gilbert's singing class at Bradford's School House and the many singing books and "English Songs in score" advertised in Southwick's paper are any index, voice culture was very popular.[65] Mayhap they still sang the song that some years earlier was on everyone's lips: "*The Glorious Success of His Majesty's Arms in the Reduction of Havannah.*"[66]

Although the Hallam-Douglass Company of actors had played for two seasons in Newport, in 1761-1762, no regular plays were performed as in New York, Philadelphia and Charles Town.[67] But the visitors, especially from Charles Town, furnished both the demand and the necessary patronage, and from time to time occasional performances were given. In 1771 the town granted a license to a group "to act plays," but we do not know that this privilege was ever utilized.[68] In the absence of real productions the people accepted the best substitute, and we learn from the *Mercury* that in 1769,[69]

On Tuesday Evening,
The Fifth of September Instant,
At Mrs, Cowley's Assembly-Room
In Church-Lane,
Will be read
An Opera,
Call'd Love in a Village:

By a Person who has Read and Sung in
Most of the Great Towns in America.

In all ways a developed seaside resort, colonial Newport, like its later rivals and imitators, furnished its crop of summer romances, and then as now a wedding thrilled the visitors and townspeople. In 1773 "William Gibbins, of Savannah, Esq;" married Miss Vally Richardson of New-

port. The wedding was celebrated in November, too late for most of the summer colony, but they at least had the pleasure of seeing the romance develop.[70] But the next year those who returned to Newport were rewarded with the privilege of witnessing the brilliant marriage of a daughter of the town to a distinguished visitor. On August 22, the *Mercury* reported that "Last Thursday was married, at Bedford, in Dartmouth, *Mr. Clemment Biddle*, of Philadelphia, merchant, to the aimiable *Miss Becca Cornell*, daughter of *Gideon Cornell*, Esq; late of this town, deceased."[71]

The lighter forms of amusement were many and varied. Among the gentry the giving of large, formal dinners was, perhaps, the most widespread of all social activities. The favorite dishes on these occasions were Dun-fish,[72] and West India turtles. After dinner the ladies retired and the gentlemen remained at the table for pipes, punch and Madeira. Before the men rejoined the ladies in the drawing-room for cards and dancing,[73] the latter regaled themselves with the latest gossip. In September of 1774 society was pleasantly horrified by the notorious Wanton scandal. Such affairs were not at all unusual in the families of artisans and mechanics—but *the Wantons* of Newport! The distraught husband, soon angered by prevailing rumors, vented his spleen in the press:[74] "Whereas *Content Wanton*, the wife of John Wanton (son of James) hath absented herself from my bed and board, without any cause or offence given by me, but, as I suppose, by the advice of some persons who are enemies to my peace and happiness, and as their wicked counsel may extend farther, in persuading her to run me into debt, to accomplish their wicked intent of completing my ruin;" this is to give notice that he will assume no responsibility for debts incurred by his apparently well-named wife.

Dancing was a favorite form of amusement in Newport for many years prior to the Revolution. An Assembly had been formed in 1745 by thirteen bachelors, the majority

members of Trinity Church, who issued invitations to thirty-two qualified young ladies.[75] We can find no records of the Assembly after 1751, but there exists abundant evidence that the habit of dancing grew with time. Dancing schools increased in number, and French dancing masters began to advertise frequently in the newspaper.[76] Whenever dinners were given they were usually followed by dancing, as well as by cards, backgammon and billiards—always accompanied by Madeira for the ladies and rum punch for the men.[77] Mary Cowley frequently advertised her Assembly-Rooms which opened in September, one to be used for dancing, "the other . . . a separate genteel Apartment with Card-Tables, and a good Fire. Hours 6-10 o'clock."[78] Dancing, for the most part, was a winter diversion in colonial days, although Arthur Brown remembered that "in warm weather parties in the woods and dinners, . . . with dances afterwards in the open air were favorite amusements." We infer that most people liked better the customary summer "evening promenades . . . when from about an hour after sunset, . . . the country resounded with songs and serenades."[79] This is truly a delightful picture of an idyllic existence.

It must never be forgotten that in colonial days the church was the central social agency. In the two decades preceding the American Revolution the increasing secularization of life in the towns was causing the church to lose much of its influence, but, nevertheless, it still played the leading role on the provincial stage. The social events of Newport revolved about Trinity Church. To be an Anglican was to be assured of a superior place in the ranks of society.[80] Stiles complained bitterly of the domination of the Redwood Library by the Church of England; "this set out as a Quaker affair, . . . [but] the Episcopalians slyly got into & obtained a Majority wch they are careful to keep."[81] Of course the Congregational parson was prejudiced, but there is no question of the social value of membership in the Anglican Church. The royal governors and lesser officials

who set the tempo of provincial life were generally of that communion, and, furthermore, the Church was far more tolerant and lenient in its attitude toward the "frivolous" side of life than the non-conforming sects. It is thus no source of wonder that the parish register of Trinity Church, Newport, reads like the bead roll of early Rhode Island, and on a pleasant sabbath in the summer the passerby would see large numbers of the visiting gentry escorting their "consorts" there to divine service.

Turtle parties enjoyed a great popularity as a summer entertainment. Jahleel Brenton's negro slave, Cuffee Cockroach, was always in great demand as a turtle cook. These affairs were generally held on Goat Island near Ft. George. Dinner was served at two in the afternoon, and was followed by tea at five, after which there would be dancing while the musicians played "Pea Straw," "Faithful Shepherd," and "Arcadian Nuptials." The parties broke up about eleven o'clock with a final hot toddy, and the gay revelers were ferried back to town.[82]

There were sporting possibilities in the neighborhood. The summer visitor was frequently amused by horse races on the beach between the famous Narragansett pacers, or by exhibitions of horsemanship by "Mr. Bates, the famous horseman," and Christopher Gardner, the local boy, whom the townspeople and press hailed as "the original American rider."[83] It was fashionable to take an afternoon's drive in a chaise about the Island, and stop for a bite to eat at Abigail Stoneman's tea house in Middletown, where "large entertainments . . . will be prepared on the shortest notice."[84] On sunny days parties were made up to hire Samuel Haywood's "new pleasure-boat, Liberty," and explore the coves and inlets of Narragansett Bay, or to make a run to Providence or Bedford on the packet boats.[85] On returning great strength of mind was required to pass the Oyster House on Long Wharf without sampling a dozen salts or so.

This, then, was the attractive prospect which the summer visitor faced. There was nothing like it in America, a seaside town, busily attending its own profitable pursuits, yet extending its hospitality to a society who came there because of its charm, and who generously added their own graces and accomplishments. The life was simpler than today, the display of wealth less great perhaps, the social stratification less intense. Newport was more of a flourishing seaport then than now, and its life revolved less exclusively around the arrival and departure of its summer guests. Yet potentially Newport was in the eighteenth century as in the nineteenth, the health-restoring, pleasure-giving resort of those whose loftier birth, accumulated wealth and social accomplishments afforded them opportunity to enjoy in leisure a few months each year of the best the New World could offer. This happy, gentle society, almost unique in the pioneer sternness of life on a new continent, was abruptly, though not permanently, brought to a close by the outbreak of hostilities in 1775. It is with a pang of regret that we read the last "society notice" in the *Mercury:*[86] "June 12, arrived here the Sloop Friendship, Capt. *Munro*, in 14 days from Charles-Town, with whom came Passengers, Mr. *Isaac McPherson*, Mr. *Jonathan Clarke*, Mrs. *Clarke*, and Mr. *Nathan Child*, all of South-Carolina. This vessel was taken under the *protection* of the men of war."

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
October 14, 1932

Notes

[1]*Rhode Island Historical Magazine*, (July, 1885), VI, 45-46.

[2]George Berkeley, *Works*, (A. Campbell, ed., 4 vol., Oxford, 1871), IV, 160. Letter of April 24, 1729.

[3]William B. Weeden, *Early Rhode Island*, (New York, 1910), 266.

[4]Weeden, *Rhode Island*, 265.

[5]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), VI, 165*n*.

[6]Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, *Newport: Our Social Capital*, (Philadelphia, 1905), 19-20.

[7]G. C. Mason, *Reminiscences of Newport*, (Newport, 1884), 9.

[8]For some account of the fevers, see Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina under the Royal Government*, (New York, 1901), *passim*.

[9]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 160-165. Col. Pollock was sued by John Scollay in the Rhode Island courts and ordered to pay a judgment of over £500. Walter Chaloner, sheriff of Newport, went bond for Pollock. The latter disappeared and never returned, and Chaloner was thrown into prison to satisfy the bond. Thomas Pollock, Jr. was thus left to bear the shame of his father's crime. The Ferguson family would not permit the lad to court their daughter Ethel, and in despair he signed for a merchantman in 1799. Returning in 1813 with a privateersman, Pollock learned to his sorrow that the Fergusons had moved to New York. He sought out Ethel on Long Island and married her. They removed to Carolina where a remnant of the paternal estate afforded them a refuge.

[10]Any social item of local importance was reported in the provincial press, but notices of this special type are not to be found in the other colonial newspapers.

[11]See chart accompanying this paper.

[12]*Newport Mercury*, August 10, 1761. Benjamin Blagg of New York and William Richards of Newport advertised two sloops to make regular trips between the towns.

[13]Bruce M. Bigelow, *The Commerce between Rhode Island and the West Indies in the Eighteenth Century*, (Ms., John Hay Library), is the authority on this important subject. Quoted by permission.

[14]*Newport Mercury*, June 18, 1770. A page of this issue is missing, consequently we do not know the name of the vessel or exactly where it was wrecked.

[15]*Newport Mercury*, August 19, 1771; June 24, 1771.

[16]*Newport Mercury*, June 26, 1769; June 18/25, 1768; May 28, 1770. All trips were made by the sloop Charlestown, Capt. Durfee.

[17]*Newport Mercury*, July 5, 1773; August 31, 1772. The trip from Georgia averaged about thirteen days. See *Newport Mercury*, July 12, 1773.

[18]*Newport Mercury*, August 1/8, 1768.

[19]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (July, 1885), VI, 45-46.

[20]*Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*, (F. B. Dexter, ed., 2 vols., New York, 1901), I, 281.

[21]*Newport Mercury*, June 15, 1772.

[22]*Newport Mercury*, June 26, 1769; May 28, 1770.

[23]*Newport Mercury*, August 7, 1769, *et passim*.

[24]*Newport Mercury*, July 13, 1772.

[25]*Newport Mercury*, June 6, 1774.

[26]*Newport Mercury*, July 4/11, 1768; September 2, 1771; and June 28, 1773.

[27]*Newport Mercury*, September 6, 1773. The issue of October 9, 1769 notes the arrival of a party at Charles Town, which was probably clipped from the *South-Carolina Gazette*. This may indicate that social news was printed in that paper.

[28]*Newport Mercury*, August 20, 1770; March 5, 1770.

[29]McCrady, *South Carolina*, 402.

[30]*Newport Mercury*, May 11, 1772. Col. Pollock had a place in Newport.

[31]*Newport Mercury*, August 1/8, 1768.

[32]*Newport Mercury*, August 5, 1765; September 18, 1769.

[33]*Newport Mercury*, July 25, 1774.

[34]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 98*n*; *Newport Mercury*, June 6, 1774.

[35]*Newport Mercury*, July 26, 1773.

[36]*Newport Mercury*, October 2, 1775.

[37]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 49-50.

[38]*Newport Mercury*, May 16, 1774.

[39]See Richard Cumberland's sentimental comedy, *The West Indian*, (London, 1771), for the conception of the free and easy planter that prevailed at the time.

[40]G. C. Mason, *Annals of Trinity Church*, (Newport, 1890).

[41]See McCrady, *South Carolina*, *passim.*, and index; also the South Carolina Historical Society's *Collections*, (1857—).

[42]Thomas Willing Balch, *The Philadelphia Assemblies*, (Philadelphia, 1916), has lists of members, many of whom appear in the *Mercury's* lists.

[43]*Register of the Jockey Club*, (Ms. in Hist. Soc. of Pa.); also the *History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company*, 33; and *History of the Gloucester Hunting Club*, 67, in the same library.

[44]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), VI, 169.

[45]*Newport Mercury*, May 19, 1761; Berkeley, *Works*, IV, 160.

[46]*Newport Mercury*, June 13/20, 1768.

[47]*Newport Mercury*, June 11, July 18, 1774.

[48]*Newport Mercury*, August 13, 1770.

[49]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), VI, 167-168.

[50]In 1774 the population was 9,209. *A Century of Population Growth*, (Washington, 1909), 11.

[51]G. C. Mason, *Annals of the Redwood Library*, (Newport, 1881), 40.

[52]Ezra Stiles, *Itineraries and other Miscellanies, . . . with a Selection from his Correspondence*, (F. B. Dexter, ed., New Haven, 1916), and *Diary*, *op. cit.*

[53]See, for example, the list in the *Mercury*, June 6, 1774.

[54]*Newport Mercury*, June 30, 1768; June 12, 1769; Stiles, *Diary*, I, 184 (November 13, 1771).

[55]*Newport Mercury*, November 25, 1771.

[56]*Newport Mercury*, July 10, 1769; July 4, 1768.

[57]*Newport Mercury*, October 14, 1765.

[58]Stiles, *Diary*, I, 31.

[59]*Newport Mercury*, January 2, 1759.

[60]*Newport Mercury*, May 4, 1772.

[61]*Newport Mercury*, August 17/24, 1767.

[62]Mason, *Trinity Church*, 58.

[63]*Newport Mercury*, December 27, 1773.

[64]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 9-10.

[65]*Newport Mercury*, June 4, 1770; October 31, 1763.

[66]*Newport Mercury*, September 14, 1762.

[67]*Newport Mercury*, November 3, 1761.

[68]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 123.

[69]*Newport Mercury*, September 4, 1769; September 11, 1769.

[70]*Newport Mercury*, November 15, 1773.

[71]*Newport Mercury*, August 22, 1774.

[72]Mason, *Reminiscences*, 101-102. Dun-fish were a species of cod.

[73]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), 172.

[74]*Newport Mercury*, September 19, 1774.

[75]Howard M. Chapin in *Providence Sunday Journal*, October 22, 1929.

[76]*Newport Mercury*, April 11, 1774.

[77]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), VI, 172-173.

[78]*Newport Mercury*, September 26, 1768; November 2, 1772.

[79]*R. I. Hist. Mag.*, (January, 1886), VI, 172-173.

[80]Mason, *Trinity Church*, *passim*.

[81]Stiles, *Diary*, I, 166 (1771).

[82]Mason describes a typical party in *Reminiscences*, 101-102.

[83]*Newport Mercury*, May 6, 1765; October 25, 1773; May 23, 1774.

[84]*Newport Mercury*, June 29, 1772.

[85]*Newport Mercury*, August 14, 1769; February 22, 1773; March 1, 1773.

[86]*Newport Mercury*, June 12, 1775.

SUMMER VISITORS AT NEWPORT, 1767-1775[1]

Town or Place	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	Total
Charles Town	29	12[2]	29[2]	44	33	48	14	43[2]	4	266
Philadelphia	1	15	.....	.....	14[2]	20[2]	29[2]	13	.....	92
Maryland	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
North Carolina	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	7	.....	.....	.....	9
Georgia	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	20	4	.....	25
Boston	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
West Indies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	4
Jamaica	.....	1	.....	.....	5	20	10	18	.....	54
Total	30	29	29	45	55[3]	99	73	78	4	452

[1]Compiled from files of the *Newport Mercury*, 1767-1775. Where a family was mentioned its size was assumed to be six in number.

[2]Others came but names not known by printer.

[3]Several files of the *Mercury* are missing for May and June, 1771.

New Publications of Rhode Island Interest

Original Land Grants of Portsmouth, R. I., compiled by Edward H. West, is a manuscript atlas of ten sheets showing the earliest recorded land holdings in Portsmouth.

Washington's Headquarters, by Mabel Lorenz Ives, contains an eleven-page account of the Stephen Hopkins House in Providence.

The *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for October, 1932, contains an article on the English ancestry of the Fiske family by G. Andrews Moriarty, F.S.A.

Frances, the Falconer's Daughter, the Mother of Governors, 1607-1677, by Elizabeth Nicholson White, is an illustrated volume of 176 pages dealing with Frances (Latham) Dungan.

Gilbert Stuart, by William T. Whitley, is a volume of 240 pages.

Berkeley's American Sojourn, by Benjamin Rand, a book of 79 pages, was published by the Harvard University Press.

A History of the Young Ladies' School, 1860-1898, and Miss Abbott's School Alumnae Association, 1912-1930, written and compiled by Mary B. Anthony and Grace P. Chapin, Providence, 1932, is an illustrated book of 57 pages.

Notes

Mr. Frederick W. York has been elected to membership in the Society.

Peace Dale Seals

Communicated by Miss Caroline Hazard

The seal bearing the picture of a dove with wings expanded and with an olive branch in its mouth, surrounded by the words PEACE DALE, R. I., belonged to Rowland G. Hazard,[7] (1801-1888) and possibly to his father, Rowland Hazard,[6] who bought a house on the Saugatucket in July 1805, and lived there with his family for some years. Mary Peace, daughter of Isaac Peace of Bristol, Pa., was his wife. Hence the name Peace Dale and the dove.

The Minutes of the Westconnaug Purchase

Transcribed by THEODORE G. FOSTER

(Continued from Vol. XXV, page 128.)

A List of the Persons[8] who have whole Rights in *Westquanaug* as was computed, ordered, and allowed at a Meeting of the Proprietors of Westquanauge convened at the House of Joseph Smith in Kingston the 20th of February 1706/7 /viz/

Col. Samuel Cranston	20	39	- - - - - - - - - - - - - -	23
Major John Greene	18	47		7
Zachariah Rhodes	22	53		8
Jeremiah Clarke . .	24	36	Jeremiah Clark	10
Clement Weaver, Senior	5	41		28
Clement Weaver Junr.	4	31	Mr. Fields Half Share on the South Side of Fourth Lot	27
Latham Clarke	27	30		13
Nicholas Carr	14	56		18
Weston Clarke	2	52		15
Robert Gardner	26	42		19
John Fones	13	- -		20
William Vaughn	7	33	- - - - - - - - - - - - - -	24
Robert Westcot	29	55		3
William Fobes	28	44		4
William Pebody	1	57		12
John Rogers	17	46		26

[8]West-Quanaug or The West-Quanaug Purchase.

A number of individuals of Newport were afterwards associated with the first purchasers, among whom were Gov. John Cranston, Caleb Carr, Thomas Clark, William Foster, Clement Weaver, Aaron Davis, John Jones and Latham Clark, most or all of whom have now descendants in the town. In 1707, this purchase was divided by lot among 29 proprietors, but the first settlement was not commenced until 1717. The first settler was Ezekiel Hopkins, whose descendants are now very numerous in the town; there are also here a number of the descendants of the two Governors, John Cranston and Samuel Cranston. (A Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island by John C. Pease and John M. Niles, 1819, p. 342.)

The spelling Westenadgue appears in Prov. Town Papers (0623), printed in Prov. Rec. XVII, 199.

John Rhodes	23	35	Drawn by Ellery & Davis	2
Malichy Rhodes	6	51		16
Simon Smith	8	54		21
Andrew Harris	19	40		6
Stephen Arnold	21	48		14
Peleg Rhodes	11	34		1
Benjamin Carpenter	9	45		11
Nathaniel Waterman	25	50		22
Hugh Mosher	16	37		9
Joseph Case	12	32		5
Aaron Davis	3	43		25
Lawrence Springer Half Share	10	10	Half of a whole Share - -	17
Major William Wanton	15	49	- - - - - - - - - - - - - -	-

To the Gentlemen the Proprietors of Providence convened at the House of M[r.] William Turpin[9] in Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island & Providence Plantation the 22[d] of February 1706/7

Gentlemen WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed being a Committee of the Proprietors of Westquanaug being informed that Some of you have begun to lay out Land in the Southern Side of the Northern Branch of Pawtuxet River that cometh out of Ponhanganset Pond and lying on the Northern Side of Warwick Northern Bounds which Land is the Propriety of us the Subscribers and the Rest of our Partners.

WE do therefore in our own Behalf and also on Behalf of the Rest of our Partners forewarn and forbid you or any of you to make any Improvement of said Land as having no Right thereunto . . As Witness our Hands this 21[st] of February 1706/7

Samuel Cranston
Weston Clark
Robert Gardner
John Rhodes
Simon Smith

[9]A copy of this letter appears among the Providence Town Papers (0644) and is printed in Prov. Rec. XVII, 223.

March 31st 1707. The Trustees met and adjourned to the 2d of April 1707

April 2d 1702. The Proprietors met at the House of Mr William Bright in Newport and according to the Foregoing Agreement These underwritten paid in their Money to John Rhodes the Treasurer chosen /viz/ Major Samuel Cranston 20/ Major John Green 20/ Jeremiah Clark 20/ Aron Davis 20/ Robert Gardner 20/ Nicholas Carr 20/ Clement Weaver Senr 20/ Latham Clark 20/ Joseph Wilbur paid for one Half Share for Lawrence Springer 10/ Clement Weaver Jun 20/ Weston Clark 20/ Simon Smith 20/ William Fobes 20/ William Pebody 20/ John Rogers 20/ John Rhodes 20/ Malichy Rhodes 20/ Joseph Case 20. Major William Wanton 20/

Ordered That Mr John Rhodes Treasurer of the Proprietors shall forthwith agree with Mr John Mumford Surveyor to go forthwith and make a Map and Platt[10] of said Land of Westquanaug—and said Rhodes Treasurer shall appoint such and so many to assest said Surveyor and shall pay both Surveyor and his Assestants out of the Money he hath in his Hands paid by the Company

And if said Treasurer cannot get Mr. Mumford the week the other Trustees on this Main may appoint as they shall think fit for the forwarding the said Concern and We do appoint that the Trustees as this Main shall upon emmergent occasion act and do all things needful relating or concerning the Premises

Ordered That Zachariah Rhodes shall have a Share and a Half carried on at free Cost . . . This was ordered by the Trustees on the Main of the 14th of of April 1707.

[10]That difficulties were encountered in the attempt to make this survey is shown by Providence Town Paper 0647 (printed in Prov. Rec. XVII, 227); a warrant dated May 1, 1707 and issued by Governor Cranston, wherein it is related that officials of the Town of Providence arrested and imprisoned the Westconnaug surveyors. P. T. P. (0651), printed XVII, 233, is a summons in this case dated June 10, 1707 and referring the case to the September 1707 court.

Memorandum That I Zachariah Rhodes for Consideration of a Right and Half of the Lands of Westquanaug to be carried on without any charge to me DO Declare that I shall in no way impede or hinder the Proprietors of Westquanaug but will forward and help them as much as I may by any Deeds or Writings that are in my Custody Neither shall I help any that shall oppose them either directly or indirectly . . Witness my Hand the 14th of April 1707. Signed in the Presence of Simon Smith Clerk

Zachy Rhodes

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of Westquanauge at the House of Mr. William Bright the 10th of June 1708

It is orderd that the former Committee chosen by the Proprietors for managing said Purchase is still continued: three of the major Part of them to meet and treat with the committee chosen by the Town of Providence[11] for the Settlement between those of Providence and the Proprietors aforesaid and what the Major Part shall act or do on the Premises shall be taken and deemd authoritative to all interests and Purposes—The Names of the Committee are Col Samuel Cranston Mr Richard Greene Mr Robert Gardner Mr Simon Smith Mr John Rhodes Weston Clark and Malichy Rhodes who have hereby full Power to move from Time to Time and Place to Place while the Mater be compleatd if possible to satisfaction—and We do appoint the First Meeting on the 18th Day of July next at Warwick at the Hous of Mr James Carder and that the charge of the Treaty be borne and paid by the Treasurer of the Proprietors—John Fones is chosen Clerk for this Meeting - - -

A True Copy

John Fones Clerk

This is treaty entered per Mr Simon Smith Clerk of the Proprietors

[11]The record of the appointment of the committee of the Proprietors of Providence on May 18, 1708 is Prov. Town Paper 0664, printed in Prov. Rec. XVII, 239-240.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Proprietors of Westquanauge this Fifth Day of September 1711 at Newport

Present
The Honourable Gov Samuel Cranston
M^r Weston Clarke
M^r Robert Gardner
M^r John Rhodes
M^r Malichy Rhodes &
Simon Smith

Ordered that whereas M^r Richard Greene who was one of the Committee is Dead M^r Job Green is chosen in his Room or Stead

And Whereas M^r Robert Gardner one of the Committee hath sold his Right to Major James Brown It is voted by the Committee that the said Gardner shall be indemnified in the said Sale to the said Brown notwithstanding the Injunction in the Third Article of our Agreement February 20^th 1706

This Meeting is adjournd to Tuesday come Sen night the 18^th Instant at Warwick and if that be foul weather then to meet the next convenient Day

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At a Meeting of the Proprietors of Providence and the Committee of the Proprietors of Westquanauge at Warwick this 18^th of September 1811[12]

Agreed That a Petition or Exhitation be drawn to set forth the Claim of Providence as to the Title within the Jurisdiction of Connecticut Colony and also the Title of the Proprietors of Westquanaug which lyeth in said Colony which Petition is to be presented to the Court of assestants held at New London the 13^th of October next—And the Men to draw said Petition &c are Cap^t Thomas Fenner and Simon Smith and Cap^t Thomas Fenner and M^r Malichy

[12]Error for 1711.

Rhodes are to carry said Petition &c and the charge to be borne equally by both Parties—— And the Persons who draw up said Petition shall have full Power to Sign the same on Behalf of the Proprietors of Providence and the Proprietors of Westquanaug[13]

And it is farther agreed that if their shall be any Occasion to go to Law for the Lands of Providence or the Lands of Westquanaug which lay within the Jurisdiction of Connecticut Then the Proprietors of Providence and the Proprietors of Westquanaug shall be at equal Charge for carrying on the same and what Title we pitch upon to sue we to agree to at next October Court

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13 To the Honourable the Governor Deputy Gover[r] Assistants and Worshipfull Representatives sitting in Court at New Haven in the County of New Haven within and ~~for her~~ majestys Colony of Conicticut the 11[th] of October 1711

The Exhibition and humble Petetion of the Comittee of the Proprietors of Providence and the Comittee of the Proprietors of Westquedniuke Namely Col[w] Samuel Cranston Esq[r]· Maj[r]: Joseph Jenckes Esq[r]: Cap[t]: Thomas Fenner Esq[r]: Maj [r]: James Brown Esqr Cap[t]: Samuel Wilkinson M[r]: Weston Clark Esq[r]: Lt[w]: Thomas Harris M[r]: John Roades M[r]: Resolved Waterman M[r]: Job Green Esqr M[r]: Joseph Brown M[r]: Malachi Roades M[r]: Joshua Winsor and Cap[t]: Simon Smith Esqr:—All of her Majestys Colony of Road-Island and Providence Plantations Humbly Sheweth and Exhibiteth to your Honours

That the Proprietors of the Anciant Town of Providence having upward of sixty yeares since Purchased of the Indian Natives the Lands where they now Live Namely all the Lands Betwixt Patucket and Pautuxit Rivers And so to Extend from a Hill Called Fox-Hill Twenty Miles Westward &c: The which sd Purchase was made and Granted by one of the most Greatest sachems of the Narraganset Countrey and Confirmed by all the Chief Princes of the Natives and hath had a good Sanchon from England So that it Cannot be thought that So firme a Title should be Eclipsed or Deminished under any Presents Whatsoever &c:

Item the Proprietors of Westquodniuk by anciant Deeds and Confirmations Upward of fifty Yeares since Purchased of the Indian sachems a Certain Tract of Land or Part of the Countrey known and Called by the Name of Westquodniuk Bounded Partly on the Eastern and North

Eastern Parts by the aforesd Lands of Providence South and South westerly by the Lands of Agans west and north westerly by Quinippoge Lands and northerly by the Neppeneck Lands which Lands was Confirmed by Mosup alias Quissuckquans the Grand Chief sachem of the Narraganset Countrey Purchased by the Assent, and so well approved of by the Colony of Road-Island that they Enacted that it should be a Township they thinking then that it was all within their Own Jurisdiction

NOW the matter is that since, Commissioners having bin Chosen by Each Colony to state the Boundarys betwixt them as to Jurisdiction of Goverment And they having Done the same It now appeares that there is neare two miles of the Western part of Providence Purchase the whole Bredth thereof Lying within the Jurisdiction of your Colony of Connicticut

AND also a Great Part of the Purchase of Westquodniuk Lyeth within your Jurisdiction Contrary to what we Imagined before the Lines were Run So that we think it Our Duty now to Lay this Exhibition before your Honours to show what Title we have within your Jurisdiction And the Rather because we are therunto Incitted by a Clause in yor Printed Statutes Pag the 64:

NOW our Huble Petetion to yor Honours is that you would Give us your Leave that we may have free Accession to make Improvement and settle those Lands so Anciantly Purchased by us Now Lying within your Jurisdiction And we as to that Part shall be Obediant and submissive subjects under your Good Goverment

AND this we are the more Encouraged to Request Considering it was a special Article in the agreement that Propriety should be maintained and that all Anciant Grants Allowed by Each Colony should stand good Notwithstanding the agreement Concerning Jurisdiction betwixt sd Colonys Upon which the Colony of Road Island have bin Very Carfull to maintain Propriety and namely upon several in the Western Parts of Westerly who after the Jurisdiction line was Run betwixt the Colonys they fell within the Jurisdiction of the Colony of Road Island although their Title was the same w$^{th:}$ Conicticut yet the Colony of Road Island Maintained their Title the Jurisdiction notwithstanding

Wherefore we Pray that your Hon$^{r:}$ will Do the Like and grant our Petetion and Give to Our Messengers, viz, Maj$^{r:}$ Joseph Jenckes and M$^{r:}$ Malacky Roades the Bearers hereof a fovourable admission into your Hond: Assembly who will be furnished with such Deeds & manuscripts as will Evince and make Probation of this which is Laide before you (if your Hon$^{r:}$ Require the same) And we Pray that your Honours would give them Some Answer that they may Return the same to Us And in the meane time We Remain yo$^{r:}$ Humble Serv$^{t:}$ to Command

At a Meeting of the committee of the Proprietors of Westquanaug at Warwick Novem[r] the 17[th] 1711

Orderd that the Treasurer M[r] John Rhodes pay unto M[r] Malichy Rhodes for his Services and Journey to the Assembly at Connecticut at New Haven the Sum of Five Pounds Two Shillinds

Orderd that Capt Simon Smith in Behalf of the Committee write another Letter to the Assembly of Connecticut for the obtaining their possitive Answer stating our Claim within their Jurisdiction as is agreed upon by this Committee

Orderd that when the season of the Year will permit that Malichy Rhodes be appointed Surveyor with the Assestance of M[r] John Rhodes to Survey and lay out the Lands of Westquanauge within the Colony Line according to agreement with the Town of Providence and to proportions the same as near as may be to the Right of each Proprietor and that said Rhodes take such Assestance as the Work will require so far as relates to their Part . . .

Ordered that this Committee be adjourned to Newport the last Wednesday in February next or any of the Three Days following[14]

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Proprietors of Westquanaug at Newport June 11[th] 1712.

Providence October the 6th 1711 By Order of Both Comittes Signed by Us

Thomas Fenner
Sim[o:] Smith

(Connecticut Archives, Colonial Boundaries, I, 200 a & b.) *Courtesy of the Connecticut State Library.*

This petition was considered at the meeting of the General Assembly of Connecticut held in October, 1711, but no action was taken at that time. (Conn. Col. Rec. V, p. 277.)

[14]On March 22, 1711-12, Nathaniel Waterman of Providence bequeathed to "my loveing Grandsons the two Zuriell Watermans all my lands in the Place called Wesquenoid". His will was presented for probate on April 22, 1712. (Prov. Rec. VII, 99.)

Whereas there was a Meeting of the Proprietors of said Westquanaug appointed at the House of Robert Nichols of Newport the 10th Instant in order to supply the Treasurer with a further Stock of Money to carry on the Affairs of said Purchase and to defray the Charge of the Surveyor &c in the laying out said Purchase into Farms or Lots and the said Meeting failing for want or through the Neglect of the Proprietors making their Appearances at said Meeting: The Committee considering the Premises and the Trust and Difficulty of getting the Proprietors to meet together and finding that they have full Power and Authority given them for the full and entire Menagement and finishing all Matters and Things relating said Purchase——We have viewed the Treasurers Accounts and find that the Money already deposited is all paid out towards the incident charges that have already accrued . . . .

We do therefore order that for the Defraying and carrying on the further charge that Each Proprietor having a Whole Share in said Purchase shall pay or cause to be paid unto Mr John Rhodes of Pawtuxet Treasurer or to his order the Sum of one Pound and so each Proprietor having more or less than a whole share to pay according to that Proportion: and that the said Sum or Sums shall be paid to Said Treasurer on or before the First Tuesday of September next

Malachy Rhodes Clerk

At a Meeting of the Major Part of the committee of Westquanaug at Newport September the 13th 1714

Whereas Mr Malachy Rhodes of Pawtuxet Deceased was appointed and constituted Clerk and Surveyor to the Proprietors of the said Purchase and having the Register Book in his custody We have now chosen Job Green of Warwick clerk and Register to said Proprietors in the Room and Stead of Malachy Rhodes Deceased and that he shall go forthwith and demand and receive the Register Book at the Executrix of said Rhodes and any Writings of

said Proprietors and give a Receipt for the same and to [? account] and do all things needful on the Premises

And farther that he the said Job Greene do with the Advice and concurrence of the committee on the Main Land constitute and appoint an abel and well qualified Person as Surveyor or Surveyors in the Stead & Place of said Rhodes deceased so as the said Purchase may be fully Surveyed and Plotted and all other Things done and accomplished with the Town of Providence according to Agreement with them and to make Return of his or their Proceedings to the Committee at Providence the 28th Day of October next at which Time We do appoint a Meeting then to to do all things needful therein . . . . . Job Greene Clerk

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At a Meeting of part of the Committee with some of the Proprietors at Providence the 28th of October 1714

Whereas Job Greene presented a Map of his Proceedings together with Major William Hopkins with the assestance of Major Thomas Fenner in that affair in the North Side at the Dividing Line according to the agreement with the Proprietors of Providence but there appearing but a small part of the Proprietors the Meeting was adjournd to Warwick on the Sixteenth Day of November following for a more full Number of the Company But wind and weather hindering there were but a small Appearance——But those that met agreed as followeth That Job Greene should proced to finish the Laying out the First Division with the Advice of Major Thomas Fenner and Mr John Rhodes and to finish the Division by the last of May next ensuing in order to come to a Lotment of the same——And further the finding that there hath been a failure on most part of the Proprietors in paying of Twenty Shillings apiece to John Rhodes Treasurer according to the order of the Committee at Newport June 11th 1712 for a further Supply to defray the incident Charges of said Purchase Therefore it is agreed on that each Proprietor that is behind in paying do forthwith pay said Sum to the Treas-

urer in order to defray the Charge of Surveying and it is further proposed that Major Fenner be added to the Committee in the Room and Stead of Malichy deceased

Signed per Order Job Greene Clerk[15]

At a Meeting of the Committee at Newport May the 9th 1715

It is agreed on That Major Thomas Fenner is accepted to be one of the Committee according to the Proposals at Warwick and that Capt. Benjamin Ellery is hereby chosen and added to the Committee in the Room and Stead of Mr Weston Clark he having sold his part of the Propriety of Westquanaug to Mr Joseph Whipple of Providence by consent of the Committee and it is further agreed on that Job Greene do proced to lay out the Remanding Part of said First Division as soon as may be and to take what Assestance he thinks proper in order to come to Alotment but said Greene's own Business hindering him from proceeding forthwith it is consented to by the Major Part of the Committee that Mr John Rhodes shall agree with Josiah Westcoat Surveyor to lay out the remainding Part of said First Division with the Expedition in order to Alotment and said Rhodes is to provide Assestants to the Surveyor and the whole Charge of the Surveying to be paid out of the Proprietors Treasury

Job Greene Clerk

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[15]George Lawton of Portsmouth and wife Rebecca. On January 3, 1715, sold to Job Lawton of Newport one half share of land at Weshquanoak which was formerly bought by his father George Lawton from John Crandall on December 12, 1682 (R. I. Land Ev. III, 224).

(*To be continued*)

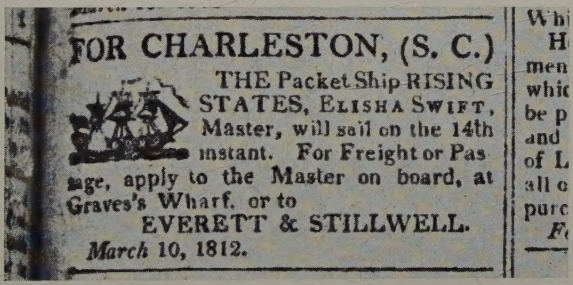
ROGER WILLIAMS PRESS E. A. JOHNSON CO.

PROVIDENCE

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

VOL. XXVI APRIL, 1933 No. 2

PACKET SHIP "RISING STATES" ADVERTISES FOR BUSINESS


FOR CHARLESTON, (S. C.)
THE Packet Ship RISING STATES, ELISHA SWIFT, Master, will sail on the 14th instant. For Freight or Passage, apply to the Master on board, at Graves's Wharf, or to
EVERETT & STILLWELL.
March 10, 1812.

ADVERTISEMENT IN RHODE ISLAND AMERICAN OF MARCH 13, 1812

See page 37

Issued Quarterly

68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

CONTENTS

PAGE

The Rising States, a Providence Packet Ship of 1812, by George L. Miner — Cover / Center Supplement / 37

History of Jamestown, by W. L. Watson 40

Genealogical Notes, by Edward H. West 59

New Publications of Rhode Island Interest . . 61

Notes 63

Survey of Old Rhode Island Houses 63

Spelling of Glocester, R. I., by Howard M. Chapin 64

Treasurer's Report, by Gilbert A. Harrington 65